

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD EEWT PL

SUBJECT: POLISH-SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE

REF: MOSCOW 19228

1. THE IMBALANCE IN POLISH-SOVIET TRADE REPORTED IN REF HAS ALREADY BEGIN TO SHOW UP IN POLISH TRADE STATISTICS. FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1976, IMPORTS FROM THE USSR ARE 9294 MILLION DEVISA ZLOTYS (2.8 BILLION DOLLARS AT OFFICIAL RATE OF 3.32 ZLOTYS PER DOLLAR), WHILE POLISH EXPORTS TO THE USSR ARE SHOWN AS 8846 MILLION (2.7 BILLION DOLLARS). SOVIET EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED BY 10.2 PERCENT IN COMPARISON WITH 1975, BUT POLISH EXPORTS ARE ONLY 2.2 PERCENT HIGHTER THAN IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1975.

2. POLISH STATISTICAL PRESENTATIONS SHOW A SHARP DROP IN POLISH EXPORTS TO THE USSR AFTER THE JUNE DISRUPTIONS, WHILE IMPORTS FROM THE USSR REMAIN STEADY, THIS RESULTED IN A BILATERAL DEFICIT OF 422 MILLION ZLOTYS (127 MILLION DOLLARS) IN THE THIRD QUARTER. THIS IS ABOUT THREE TIMES AS LARGE AS ANY QUARTERLY DEFICIT IN RECENT YEARS. TYPICALLY, POLISH EXPORTS ARE SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN SOVIET IMPORTS UNTIL THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR, WHEN SOVIET SURPLUSES HAVE BEEN THE RULE. THE LARGE DEFICIT THAT POLAND ACCUMULATED IN THE

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THIRD QUARTER COULD MEAN THE POLES

HAVE DRAWN IN ADVANCE ON THE "CREDIT" ALLEGEDLY AGREED TO DURING THE GIEREK VISIT.

3. POLAND'S EXPORTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED MILLION ZLOTYS (33 MILLION DOLLARS) PER MONTHS SINCE THE END OF JUNE, 1976. IN THE FACE OF DOMESTIC CONSUMER PRESSURES, THE POLES PROBABLY TEMPORARILY REDUCED (OR EVEN ELIMINATED) EXPORTS OF RAW MEAT, EGGS, SUGAR, AND OTHER BASIC CONSUMER ITEMS, BEGINNING IN JULY. SUBSEQUENT UNPUBLICIZED JOURNEYS TO THE USSR BY PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ MAY HAVE BEEN MADE TO OBTAIN SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE TO THE CUTBACKS. (THE THE WARSAW CAFES, THESE VISITS ARE CALLED "SECRET".)

4. FOURTH-QUARTER STATISTICS WILL PROBABLY SHOW AN EVEN LARGER TRADE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE USSR. MUCH OF THIS WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY SOVIET GRAIN SHIPMENTS, WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE POLISH PRESS, HAVE ALREADY BEGUN. DAVIES

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